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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

: Linschoten et al.

Serial No.

: 09/600,661

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Examiner

: To be assigned

Group Art Unit

: To be assigned

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Assistant Commissioner for Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Andrew Fessak

Agent Name

Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Applicants submit this communication and the attached Form PTO-1449 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Copies of the documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 are enclosed as part of this communication.

Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the two U.S. patent applications cited on Form PTO-1449, which have identical priority, international, and U.S. filing dates as the instant application.

TIME OF TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). Therefore, no fee is due in connection with this filing. However, should any fee be deemed necessary in connection with this filing, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: Upril 18,2002

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Fessak Reg. No. 48,528

Agent for Applicants

Customer No. 007470 Direct Dial: (212) 819-8437